

Letter to President Obama VA Backlog

Deadline to Co-Sign: May 22nd

Dear Colleague,

On behalf of more than 600,000 veterans that are stuck in the VA's disability claims backlog, we urge you to join us in sending the attached letter to President Obama requesting that he be directly involved in ending the backlog.

This country must be grateful for the safe homecoming of every single man and woman who has served in harm's way. Our joy at their return must be reflected in our commitment to helping all who have served. According to a report by the Center for Investigative Reporting, over the last four years claims that are pending over a year have grown by over 2000 percent.

Too often we hear from veterans who report delays in the processing of their benefit claims. Currently, the average wait time for a first time disability claim ranges between 316 and 327 days; many veterans across the country are waiting significantly longer. Solving this problem is critical for all veterans and we need the President to make this a priority.

We encourage you to join us in supporting all veterans by signing onto the attached letter no later than COB Wednesday, May 22nd 2013. For more information or to sign on to this letter, please contact Evan Armstrong (Coffman) at evan.armstrong@mail.house.gov or Mark Pipes (Murphy) at mark.pipes@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Rep. Mike Coffman (CO-06)

Rep. Patrick Murphy (FL-18)

May, 22 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to request that you take direct action and involvement in ending the current Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability claims backlog.

After a decade of war, and despite the VA's efforts to modernize, more than 600,000 veterans are still stuck in the VA's disability claims backlog. While the average wait time for first time disability claims currently ranges between 316 and 327 days, veterans in certain parts of the country are waiting even longer – 625 in Pittsburgh, 510 in Philadelphia, 681 in Reno and Las Vegas, 619 days in Los Angeles, 612 in Indianapolis, 586 in Houston and 642 in New York. In the worst cases, veterans have waited and continue to wait 800 days, 900 days, and even more than 1000 days for a disability claims decision from the VA.

In the last four years, claims pending over a year have grown by 2000%, despite a 40% increase in the VA's budget. Solving this problem is critical for veterans of all generations. We need direct and public involvement from you to establish a clear plan to end the backlog once and for all.

This country must be grateful for the safe homecoming of every single man and woman who has served in harm's way. Our joy at their return must be reflected in our commitment to helping all who have served. We respectfully ask you and your administration to find a solution that ensures that no veterans are stuck in the VA backlog.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Rep. Mike Coffman (CO-06)

Rep. Patrick Murphy (FL-18)